

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Military Units at Sliven

1. The following are the locations of military units in Sliven:
 - a. A driver's training unit is quartered in two long 1-story barracks and a garage in the eastern part of the town, about 200 meters beyond the Municipal Park.
 - b. A tank unit is located about two kilometers beyond this unit in the direction of Burgas. It is housed in a 2-story barracks, 150 meters long, and includes a 100 x 50 meter garage for tanks, which has a red tile roof. All of the tanks in this unit are new T-34s, acquired in 1952-1953.
 - c. The Signal and Engineer troops are housed in two large barracks, about 100 meters south of the Municipal Park. Ten covered Signal trucks, presumably used for radio purposes, are kept here.
 - d. The 3 Army headquarters is located near the drivers' training unit, and its building is reached through the compound of the aforementioned unit.
 - e. About 50 MVR (Ministry of Internal Affairs) troops are also stationed at Sliven for the purpose of guarding political prisoners in the town.

Troops at Belene

2. Engineers Units are stationed at Belene, near Svishtov.

Military Units at Kolarovgrad

3. The following units are stationed in Kolarovgrad:

- a. A mechanized artillery unit is located at the southern end of the town. It includes a 2-story 100 x 30 meter barracks, a garage, and repair shops.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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- b. A horse artillery unit is situated at a distance of 800 to 1,000 meters from the mechanized unit. The unit is equipped with Soviet 76-mm. guns. Until 1954 a Colonel commanded the unit.
- c. The officers' training school and rifle units are located in the same courtyard on the main street in the center of Kolarovgrad. The rifle unit, which is housed in a 2-story building, is commanded by a Major. The officers' training school similarly occupies a 2-story building, and is commanded by a General.
- 5. Although there is no artillery division in the Bulgarian Army, each of its three component armies has a subordinate regiment of motorized heavy artillery. Other artillery regiments, the guns of which are chiefly horse-drawn, are attached directly to divisions.

Artillery Regiment at Kolarovgrad

- 6. The heavy artillery regiment of the 3 Army, with headquarters at Sliven, is located at Kolarovgrad. It is believed that the Kolarovgrad regiment is unique in the respect that it is equipped with 122- and 152-mm. guns, heavier than those utilized by other Bulgarian regiments.
- 7. The artillery regiment, commonly known as the "Teshki Polk" (Heavy Regiment), is stationed on the edge of Kolarovgrad on the right side of Bezimena Street coming from town. A wire fence surrounds the barracks area, and a sentry is permanently stationed at the only gate, where entry is restricted to those in possession of a pass. Some of the guns are kept in garages attached to the barracks, while some are stored at unknown locations in the town. All ammunition is stored on a hill (Ilcho), a few miles away, but visible from the town.
- 8. The unit, which is commanded by a Colonel, comprises 250 to 300 men and is divided into six batteries. Three are artillery batteries and three are support batteries, including drivers as well as signal and medical personnel. Each artillery battery is composed of 45 to 50 men, under five or six officers, and has six guns: three 122-mm. and three 152-mm. It is believed that during a time of emergency each battery crew would be expanded to 120 men, and guns are apparently kept in reserve for this purpose. Each gun crew consists of nine men and is instructed in the use of both types of guns.
- 9. All of the guns are of German make, and are believed to have been manufactured in 1941. The 152-mm. guns weigh nine tons, and have 4.3 meter barrels, while the 122-mm. guns weigh $7\frac{1}{2}$ tons and have 3.6 meter barrels. Each gun has four hard rubber tires, two of which are detached when the guns are set up for action. The larger guns have flash eliminators, while the smaller ones have straight cut muzzles. It takes 8 to 9 hours to mount the gun in firing position. Maximum elevation of the barrels is 45 degrees, and when the gun is mounted, only the barrel is visible above the ground. Its dugout is covered with green camouflage nets.
- 10. Only one type of shell, weighing either 32 or 46 kilograms, is utilized. Although for some time only remnants of German ammunition dumps were used, currently Bulgarian shells, which are reportedly manufactured near Kazanluk, are used exclusively. The anvil head (sic) is transported separately and screwed on before action. The fuse-refitting apparatus is set in such a way that when a red mark on the anvil head is fixed in a certain position, the shell works in the manner of a percussion fuse, while a yellow mark in the same position activates a delayed action fuse. There are no shrapnel shells. Ammunition is kept in a separate dugout stored on wooden planks, about 20 yards from the guns.
- 11. Steel grey Buessing half tracks with gasoline engines and chest height armor-plated side walls, as well as four green Borgward Diesel half tracks serve as tractors for the guns. All of these half tracks are believed to have been manufactured in 1941. They have tarpaulin covers for inclement weather.

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12. Each battery has a minimum of four 3-ton Steyer trucks with gasoline engines. One truck is used mainly for the transport of rations, while the others are utilized for ammunition.

Artillery Exercises

13. Firing practice is held in the vicinity of Kolarevgrad once every one or two months. Three to nine guns, of one type only, are used during these exercises, so that no more than half of the strength of a single battery is involved. Three guns for each section are installed at thirty yard intervals. The battery commander assumes his position in the forward observation post, which is connected by telephone with the Lieutenant Commander in charge of the section. Radios and spotter planes are never used during these exercises.

14. Every gun fires 15 to 20 shells during the exercises. Telephone communications and guns are not known to have broken down during these exercises. No duds were observed. Although guns are carefully inspected before and after the drill by mechanics, gun sights have occasionally been damaged, especially when rough terrain was traversed en route to the firing positions. This was observed only after firing, when the shell strayed far from its target.

Miscellaneous Information

15. Every gunner has a rifle and bayonet, while officers have German pistols. The rifles are of the 1895 or 100 Manlicher type, which holds six rounds of ammunition in its magazine. Every gunner has 18 rounds which are replaced immediately after shooting exercises. There are no hand grenades in the unit.

16. Every gunner has a gas mask, which he, together with the officers, must wear two hours per week, irrespective of duties.

17. The barracks of the heavy artillery regiment at Kolarevgrad have a sick room, containing four beds for light cases. An Army physician is attached to the regiment. He lives, together with the other officers, in the town and comes to the barracks in the morning and leaves in the afternoon. Occasionally he participates in firing exercises. He lectures weekly to the soldiers on first aid. Each soldier is equipped with a first aid bandage kit.

18. All the rifles are stored in large cupboards in the barracks when not in use. The gunners guard the guns in two hour shifts 24 hours daily.

19. No Soviet officer was observed either in the artillery regiment or in any other unit.

20. Each soldier is issued one pair of boots, one uniform, two shirts, and no socks or underwear. He may receive a new issue of a uniform for home leave or holidays, but this must be returned.

21. There are no religious activities inside the camp, and no leave is granted for attending services.

22. A private receives five leva a month. He receives no grants or benefits on release.

23. The regimental political officer lectures once a week on world events or the history of the Communist revolution. He holds the rank of Captain, and although not in a position of authority, is able to cause considerable difficulty for an inattentive soldier.

24. Although discipline in the Bulgarian Army is extremely severe and passes are scarce, there are, nevertheless, two types of leave: eight hours local leave, and home leave. An eight-hour pass is usually granted on Sundays from 1400 to 2200 hours. It may be cancelled by any officer, and its cancellation represents the most common form of punishment for light offenses. The leave pass consists of a slip of paper, written out by hand, and signed by the battery commander (in the case of the 3 Army Artillery regiment). It is stamped

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by the unit stamp

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25. After two years of service, a soldier is eligible for up to one month of home leave, and only the Minister of People's Defense is entitled to cancel this leave completely. A soldier going on home leave is issued a typed pass signed by his regimental commander. The pass contains the soldier's name, his unit, and the extent of his leave. He receives a free round trip ticket, canned food for the trip and six to seven leva for the duration of his leave.

26. During the first 24 hours of his stay in his home town, the soldier must report to the Urban People's Council in order to have his pass stamped. At this time he must notify the Chairman of the Council of his address for the duration of his leave. Before returning to his unit he must return to the council to have his pass stamped a second time. The Urban People's Council in Sofia is located on Stalin Bouleyard.

27. A soldier on leave is not entitled to any privileges. He is obliged to pay the normal prices for public conveyances and theater tickets, for example. There are no special restaurants or rest homes for military personnel on leave. For these reasons many soldiers forego their home leave for lack of sufficient funds. Although soldiers on leave are permitted to wear either uniforms or mufti, they wear uniforms en route to and from their units.

28. Beside the leave pass, the only additional military identification in the possession of a soldier is his identity disk, which has a diameter slightly larger than one inch. It bears his unit number and a two or three digit number. When a soldier is temporarily attached to another unit, he leaves his disk with his old unit and does not receive a new one. If he goes on leave from the second unit, the only identification he would carry would be the leave pass. For loss of a disk, a soldier is imprisoned for five days.

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30. A soldier who was discharged after 34 months service because of illness had his military reserve book stamped "A" plus a two digit number.

31. The following personalities connected with the 3 Army are known:

- Lieutenant Chulakov (fmu), commander of Battery III of the Kolarovgrad artillery units
- General Dzhurov (fmu), commander of the 3 Army until January 1954 when he went to the USSR for training.

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c. Colonel Krumov (fmu), commander of the Kolarovgrad horse artillery until 1954 when he was dismissed from the army;

d. Lieutenant Ivan Grekov, commander of Battery II of the Kolarovgrad artillery unit;

e. Major Krumov (fmu), [redacted] second in command of the artillery unit at Kolarovgrad, [redacted] 25X1
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f. Captain Lazarov (fmu), in charge of sports for the 3 Army Command, [redacted] 25X1

g. First Lieutenant Petrov (fmu), commander of Battery I of the Kolarovgrad artillery units;

h. Lt. Colonel Stoychev (fmu), commander of the artillery unit at Kolarovgrad until February 1954; [redacted] 25X1

i. Colonel Yanchev (fmu), on the 3 Army Staff until 1952 when transferred to the Ministry of People's Defense; [redacted] 25X1

32. The following is the legend to the sketch of the Sliven barracks area which appears as Appendix A on page 6:

- 1 - Sliven-Burgas Road
- 2 - Direction of Burgas
- 3 - Sliven Municipal Park
- 4 - Drivers' training unit of the 3 Army
- 5 - Barracks
- 6 - Garage
- 7 - Entrance to the 3 Army Headquarters
- 8 - 3 Army Headquarters

33. The following is the legend to the sketch of the Kolarovgrad barracks area which appears as Appendix B on page 7:

- 1 - Bezimena Street (arrow points toward center of town)
- 2 - Entrance gate to heavy artillery regiment
- 3 - Gas station, which supplies gas and diesel oil for the unit's trucks
- 4 - Garages which house half tracks and guns
- 5 - Dining hall
- 6 - Living quarters
- 7 - Sick room
- 8 - Headquarters
- 9 - Wire fence

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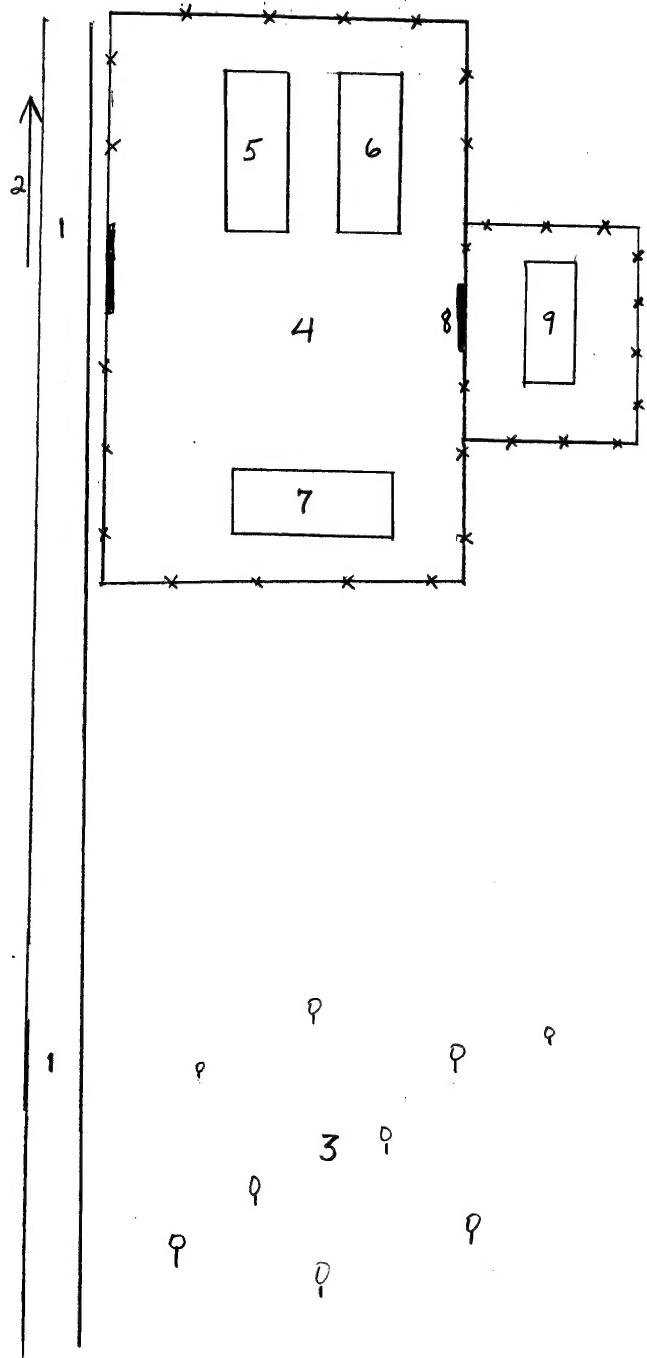
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APPENDIX A

Sliven Barracks Area



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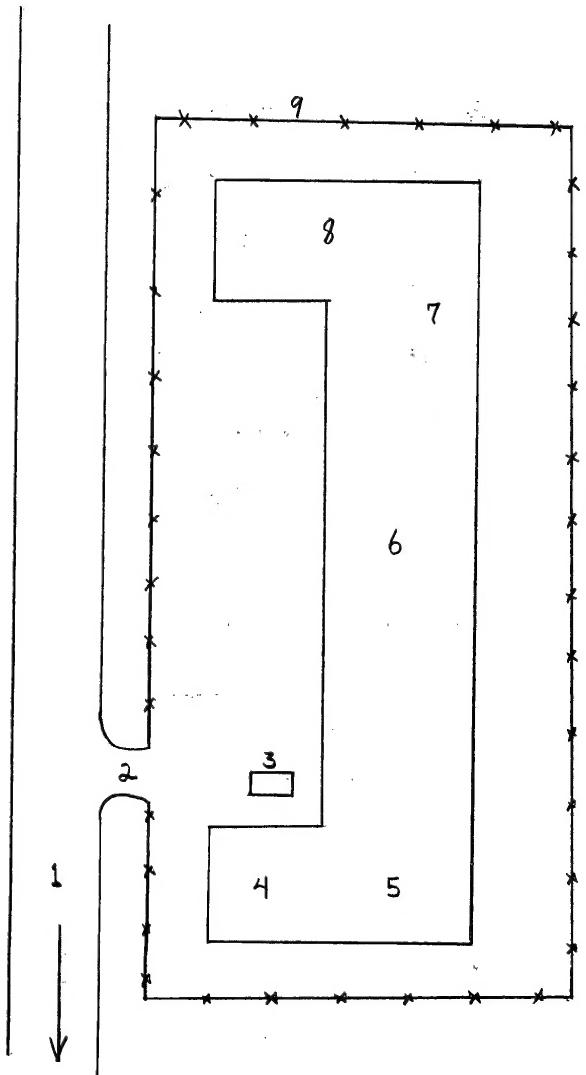
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APPENDIX B

Kolarevgrad Barracks Area



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